Patent claims

1. A method for levying charges for the provision of a chargeable service in a telecommunication network (TKN), in which

- a communication terminal (KEG) connected with a service user sends a first service request message (DAN1) to a service computer (DR) which provides the chargeable service and is connected to the telecommunication network (TKN),

- the first service request message (DAN1) is received and detained by an intermediate node (ZK) in the telecommunication network (TKN) which (intermediate node) is arranged, in relation to the flow of messages, between the communication terminal (KEG) and the service computer (DR),

- the intermediate node (ZK) prompts a second service request message (DAN2), relating to the chargeable service, to be created and transmitted to a routing service computer (D-DR) which has an associated individual identifier (IP2),

- the routing service computer (D-DR) requests (DAN2) the chargeable service from the service computer (DR),

- the routing service computer (D-DR) then receives a service message (DN) from the service computer,

- the routing service computer (D-DR) transfers the service message (DN) together with the identifier (IP2) for the routing service computer to the communication terminal (KEG),

- an exchange (V) which is arranged, in relation to the flow of messages, between the communication terminal (KEG) and the routing service

computer (D-DR) identifies from the identifier (IP2) that chargeable service use is involved, and

- the exchange (V) then creates a charge message (GN) relating to the service use and to the

5 service user (KEG).

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that

the intermediate node (ZK) prompts the second

10 service request message (DAN2), relating to the chargeable service, to be created and transmitted to the routing service computer (D-DR) by virtue of

- the intermediate node (ZK) returning a readdressing message (UAN) to the communication

15 terminal (KEG), with the readdressing message (UAN) containing the identifier (IP2) for the routing service computer (D-DR), and

- the communication terminal (KEG) taking the readdressing message (UAN) as a basis for creating the

20 second service request message (DAN2) and sending it to the routing service computer (D-DR).

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that

25 receipt of the first service request message (DAN1) by the intermediate node (ZK) is followed by

- the intermediate node using the first service request message (DAN1) to ascertain whether the requested service is chargeable,

30 - the first service request message (DAN1) being forwarded unchanged to the service computer (DR) in the case of a toll-free service, and

- creation and transmission of the second service request message (DAN2) being prompted only in the case of a chargeable service.

5   4.   The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that
- the readdressing message returned is a redirect message (UAN) designed as prescribed by the hypertext transfer protocol.

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5.   The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that
- the readdressing message (UAN) contains, as identifier, an IP address (IP2) for the routing service
15   computer (D-DR).

6.   The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that
the intermediate node (ZK) uses the first service
20   request message (DAN1) to ascertain whether the requested service is chargeable by
- comparing a feature (URL) which describes the service in the service request message (DAN1) with a plurality of features which are stored at the
25   intermediate node and are associated with chargeable services, and
- identifying the requested service as chargeable if there is a match.

30   7.   The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
- the second service request message (DAN2) contains information about the service computer (DR) in the form of a URL address (URL),

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- this URL address (URL) is transmitted to a translation node (DNS),

- the translation node (DNS) returns the IP address (IP1) associated with the URL address, and

5   - the routing service computer (D-DR) uses the IP address (IP1) of the service computer (DR) to request (DAN2) the chargeable service.

8.   The method as claimed in claim 7,
10   characterized in that
the routing service computer (D-DR) requests (DAN2(IP1,URL)) the chargeable service by

- using the IP address (IP1) to address the . service computer (DR), and

15   - using the URL address (URL) to select the chargeable service which is to be provided by the service computer.

9.   The method as claimed in claim 1,
20   characterized in that
creation of the charge message (GN) involves

- the exchange (V) using the identifier (IP2) transferred with the service message (DN) to ascertain a charge tariff associated with the identifier,

25   - the level of the charge being determined using the charge tariff, and

- information about the level of the charge being added to the charge message (GN).

30   10.   The method as claimed in claim 9,
characterized in that

- the exchange (V) determines the period of time required for transferring the service message (DN), and

- the period of time and the ascertained charge tariff are used to determine the level of the charge.

11. The method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that

- the exchange determines the volume of data in the service message (DN), and

- the volume of data and the ascertained charge tariff are used to determine the level of the charge.

12. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that

- transfer of the service message (DN) to the communication terminal (KEG) is followed by the intermediate node (ZK) creating a second charge message (GN2), which contains information about a blanket charge associated with the service.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that

the charge message (GN) and/or the second charge message (GN2) is/are transferred from the exchange (V) to a payment system (ZS).

14. The method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that

the translation node used is a domain statement server (DNS).